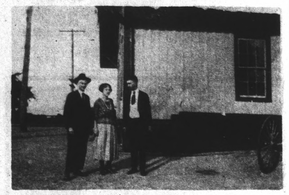
TEEN NOW!

By Frances H. Paulette



The railroad station shown in last week's paper was not the first one in Evergreen; the original station was up the tracks a bit, across from the home of Mrs. Howard Crulle. The attractive young woman in the picture is now a much-loved, retired business woman in Appomattox. Can you guess her identity? She remembers walking down the tracks to Evergreen from Appomattox on many a Sunday afternoon. Maybe those walks are the reason she continues to look so young even though the years are rolling by!

Part 11 - Down The Road A Piece

Evergreen had only two things left at the end of the Civil War --- the postmaster and a tomcat! That's the story that is widely told, but we know for a fact that things didn't remain that way for very long.

A community that had it's beginning with the name "Legs", but soon became Evergreen, was quite a busy place way back in the 1880's. It is a good place to live NOW and a bit more quiet for in the days of THEN there was a elementary school in Evergreen. Since the closing of the school in 1963, the building is being used as a community center.

In 1904 the Appomattox County School Board hired the late Miss Emma Smith as the very first school teacher for Evergreen School.

When, in 1954 a reunion of the first class to attend in Evergreen was held, a dozen or so of the 54 original students were present. Miss Smith, the teacher, along with approximately 300 friends and relatives, was on hand to help them celebrate the 50th anniversary.

Among those present for the class reunion were Z. E. Cheatham (the late Tucker Cheatham, who incidentally, had quite a reputation for pulling the girls' hair; Peyton Harvey, the late Henry Staples, the late Ruth Harvey Jennings, Martha Glover Staples; Beatrice Inge Garrett; and Lizzie Evans Hodge.

The class re-enacted a day in class, complete with all the mischievous distractions typical of a country school. They even had the original old oak water bucket, but it was so badly warped that it wouldn't hold water long enough for them to get a drink with the gourd dipper.

Official history of the Evergreen School reads as follows: "Early in the fall of 1904 construction began on the Evergreen School. Work progressed very slowly as long as the supply of hard cider lasted, but once the cider was consumed, the building went up in a hurry!"

In the days of THEN, the opening of school was the middle of October, and closing the middle of March. Evergreen School was ready for the opening of school in October that year.

Over the years the school was enlarged and modernized, with a well-equipped kitchen added for serving hot lunches. Community members admit there was a feeling of sadness when on May 30th, 1963, the Evergreen Elementary School graduated the last class.

The two general stores now serving Evergreen have been in the community for many, many years. Evans' Store, now owned and operated by Mrs. Clarkie Evans Ranson, had its beginning as the Evans and Cheatham Store. At that time it was operated by the late C. T. Evans (father of Mrs. Ranson) and the late Hudson Cheatham (father of Z. E. Cheatham). later it became C. T. Evans, General Mdse.

To one side in the Evans and Cheatham Store, Mrs. Hudson Cheatham (Mollie) ran a hat shop. For the sum of $2.00, you could get a good-looking hat and watch as Mrs. Cheatham trimmed it with the flowers, feathers or ribbon of your choice.

Hamilton's Store, also the Evergreen Post Office, is owned and operated by Postmaster and Mrs. John Kent Hamilton. It had its beginning as Cawthorn and Hamilton; Edmund Cawthorn and James Hamilton were partners. Later it became Hamilton's Store with Jim Hamilton as operator and postmaster; the Hamilton's Store of NOW was built by John Kent's father and at one time had living quarters on the second floor. When John Kent tells someone that he has been in the store since birth, he is exactly right - - -he was born upstairs!

At one period in history, Evergreen boasted more stores than Appomattox. When the stores closed, one by one, the buildings, after a few changes, became homes. Among the stores to be converted to dwelling houses were: W. T. Johnson Store, now the home of Mrs. Z. V. Harvey; Evergreen Supply (operated by C. S. McDearmon) the home of Mrs. R. W. Staples; Elijah F. Glover Store, the home of Mrs. Tempie Henderson; Robert Hancock Store, Henry Simmons' home; The Charlie Gunter Store, the home of the late Ella Jennings, now owned by Donald Hamilton; W. E. Wooldridge's Store became the W. D. Ferguson home; The James T. Ferguson Store, house now owned by Mrs. R. H. Wooldridge; and finally The Farmers Supply, operated by the Harvey Brothers is now the home of Mrs. J. Mott Harvey. Other stores located in the community were operated by F. H. Thornton, John Snell, later the Johnnie Farrar Store, H. C. Staples, later owned by H. C. Davis and of course, the two that are presently in operation.

One Evergreen resident, Mrs. J. Mott Harvey, the former Mattie Clark of that community recalls the anticipation of a trip from the farm to the village. Although they lived only approximately three miles out from the village, it was quite an excursion. In a two-horse wagon, over roads with mud sometimes to the axle in winter, the trip took considerable time. She said, "Going to Evergreen to us THEN was the same as someone going on a trip to New York NOW." She remembered her father or some other man in her community going into the village once a week for mail.

Yes, the community we know as Evergreen was quite a place in the days gone by. Today, it is a pleasantly quiet community filled with people who care about each other. If a family has reason to rejoice, the community shares their joy; if the shadow of grief or trouble falls on a home, the community cares and shares. That about says it, A Sharing and Caring Community, Down The Road A Piece - - - Evergreen.

* * *

To Mrs. J. K. Hamilton, the unofficial record-keeper and historian of the community of Evergreen and to Mrs. J. Mott Harvey, one of Evergreen's oldest citizens, (a Young 87!), I say a hearty "thank-you!" Without your help, I couldn't have written a word . . . no, not one!

Mrs. Martin's 4-H Club

On November 17, 1977 Mrs. Smith and Mr. Sweet met with Mrs. Martin's 5th Grade class. The president, Timmy Lawson, began the meeting with asking Rhonda Carter to lead the American Pledge and Brian Wright to lead the 4-H pledge. Then our recreation leaders lead us in a song and a game. Mr. Sweet gave us a sheet on what will be happening during the year and explained what was on it. Mrs. Smith showed us her "Christmas Treasures". Everyone put there name in a jar. Mrs. Smith drew the following names Yolanda Christian and Gwen Doss. Each won a book marker. Then the meeting was adjourned.

Regina McCormick, Reporter

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GOOD NEWS FOR HOMEMAKERS

By Shirley W. Walton Extension Agent

Cranberries - Nutritious and Delicious

Cranberries are truly North American berries. Before Columbus came to the New World the tangy wild cranberries had an important place in everyday life. Indian squaws used cranberries to brighten up food. Many Indians of the Cape Cod area treated wounds from poison arrows with cranberry dressing. Squaws made rugs and colorful blankets red with cranberry juice.

Pilgrim women learned of this wild berry from the friendly Indians. They soon began to create their own ways of fixing cranberries for the table. They made cranberry sauces, bubbling tarts and cranberry nog.

The word cranberry was a contraction of crane berry, an early name given to berries because of their pale pink blosoms resembling the head of a crane. Cranes were seen in the lowland, marshy places where the berries grew. The cranes also enjoyed eating the berries.

Cultivation of cranberries began in Massachusetts nearly 200 years after the landing of the Pilgrims. A farmer noticed that cranberries seemed to grow larger and juicier where sand from the dunes blew over the vines. Cultivation today came from this simple observation made nearly 150 years ago.

Cranberries grow on peat soil that has been covered with a three-inch layer of sand. Cuttings or branches from the existing cranberry vines are planted deep enough to take root in the peat soil beneath the sand. The vines, planted about six inches apart, gradually spread over the ground forming a thick green carpet. The vines are weeded in the spring and pruned in the fall and fertilized and resanded every three or four years. Vines are protected from frost by flooding and irrigated in time of drought.

Cranberries were first picked by hand, then with wooden-fingered scoops which combed the berries from the vine. Since World War II, the scoops have been replaced by mechanical pickers which complete the harvest faster and cut down on the frost damage. Every cranberry delivered to the receiving station must measure up to high standards of quality before it can travel under a label. After passing through a machine which blows out the chaff, a cranberry must demonstrate it's got bounce. Bounce? That's right. You wonder why. It's simple - - - a good, firm berry will bounce. A soft berry will not. Mechanical separators give each berry seven chances to bounce over four-inch wooden barriers. The berries that don't have the necessary bounce are discarded. Only the lively ones go on to the screening room where canvas belts carry them between rows of sharp-eyed women who pick out any not up to standards of appearance and quality.

Cranberries are not only interesting fruit because of its heritage in our country, but it is also a nutritious addition to our diet. Cranberries contain calcium, phosphorous, potassium, vitamin A and vitamin C. Cranberries, when combined with another favorite such as pineapple and then maybe your favorite flavor of gelatin, can make a delcious salad. By the time you add some celery or nuts, you have a delicious salad that will please the pallets of every family member.

One of our favorites is the cranberry nut bread which follows as recipe of the week.

As you eat and enjoy cranberries, you are eating a truly American food. Why not use some in your diet to give it variety and to add the minerals and vitamins that we need to help make us healthy people.

Homemakers, as you try these recipes and as you read about cranberries, I want to wish each of you a joyous Thanksgiving season with your family. It is always a pleasure to work with you, and if the Appomattox County Extension Office can help you in any way, please feel free to call on us.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Cranberry Fruit Nut Bread

2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
1 cup sugar
1½ teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon baking soda
¼ cup shortening
1 teaspoon grated orange peel
¾ cup orange juice
1 well-beaten egg
1 cup fresh cranberries, coarsely chopped
½ cup chopped nuts

Sift together dry ingredients. Cut in shortening. Combine peel, juice and egg. Add to dry ingredients, mixing just to moisten. Fold in berries and nuts. Turn into greased 9 x 5 x 3-inch pan. Bake at 350 degree oven for 60 minutes. Cool. Wrap and store overnight.

Lucky Clover 4H Club

The Lucky Clover 4-H Club held its meeting Nov. 14. Tommy Williams the vice-president, called the meeting to order. We had the pledges. Next the minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given. The old business was Share-the-Fun and the Bike-A-Thon. Old projects were returned and new project were received. New business was the 4-H adwards banquet which will be Dec. 12. Mr. Sweet said that pine seedlings forms will be available at the next meeting. We discussed having a Christmas party for the 1st and 2nd graders of Pamplin. Then we saw a film from Westvaco on wood. Donna Baldwin and Tommy Williams served refreshments and the meeting was adjourned.

James Richardson, Reporter

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